

Spring 2026 TRRC Awards:

Southwest Virginia:

Business Development

Joint IDA of Wythe County, VA

140 S 1st Street (#4417)

\$390,657.00 Grant

This award will support the rehabilitation of a building in downtown Wytheville for commercial space. The building rehabilitation will restore ten residential units to Wythe County's housing market and return over 3,000 sq. ft. of street level commercial space to inventory in downtown Wytheville. The project is expected to support the creation of 10 new residential units, 2 new spaces for business development, and 6 new jobs.

Sites and Infrastructure

Industrial Development Authority of Washington County, Virginia

WCIDA Glade Highlands Regional Industrial Park - Lots 6 & 7 (#4488)

\$350,000.00 Grant

This award will support the development of approximately 20+ acres within Washington County's existing 300-acre industrial park off Owens Drive in Glade Spring, VA. Developing lots 6 & 7 in Glade Highlands Regional Industrial Park will create a 10-acre "pad-ready" industrial site through site clearing, grading, and installation of essential utility infrastructure, including underground electrical, fiber optic, gravity sanitary sewer, domestic water with fire protection capacity, and comprehensive stormwater management facilities. This project will create a new 10-acre pad of industrial-ready site and installation of full utility service at the site. This award is contingent upon approval of funding from US-EDA.

Tourism

Bluefield University

Bluefield Dome Regional Sports Tourism Initiative (#4496)

\$50,000.00 Grant

This award will go to support construction upgrades to the Bluefield Dome Gymnasium. Upon completion, the renovated facility will serve as a competition-ready indoor venue capable of hosting recurring multi-team basketball and volleyball tournaments, as well as invitational events. Funding will be used for bleacher replacement, restroom renovations, and the installation of updated display, sound, and signage systems. The upgrades to the facility are expected to increase visitor spending by

\$200,000, bring 1,600 new visitors to the region, and contribute \$250,000 in private capital investments.

City of Galax

Rex Lane Commons (#4489)

\$25,000.00 Grant

This award will support the development of a public commons space in the City of Galax. This project will create a flexible space to host festivals, music events, artisan markets, and community gatherings. Key features will include transitional outdoor seating areas, designated food truck zones with utility hookups, permanent ambient lighting, and ADA-accessible pedestrian improvements. Wayfinding and signage will also be incorporated to better connect visitors to downtown restaurants, retail businesses, public parking, and the historic district.

Grayson County Tourism (#4490)

***Revitalizing Rivers: Fish Blue Ridge & New River Float Calculator Initiative
(complimentary projects submitted under one application)***

\$42,346.00 Grant

This project will support the creation of 3 new jobs, bring 174,533 new visitors to the region, and generate an additional \$200,000 in visitor spending, through implementation of the Fish Blue Ridge marketing initiative and installation of the New River Float Calculator in Grayson County. This award will restore and enhance visitor and safety infrastructure in Grayson County following damage caused by Hurricane Helene.

Funding will support the purchase and installation of cameras, Wi-Fi infrastructure, and updated signage to improve visitor safety, accessibility, and overall experience.

The New River Float Calculator, which had been operational for six months prior to the storm, sustained damage and will be replaced as part of this effort.

Town of St. Paul

Tourism and Marketing (#4487)

\$75,000.00 Grant

This award will support the creation of a Tourism and Recreation Manager position dedicated to maximizing the impact of recent public investments in St. Paul's downtown, tourism, and outdoor recreation assets. These funds will cover personnel costs associated with coordinating tourism promotion, developing event programming, and fostering strategic partnerships that connect key destinations, including St. Paul Main Street, the Lyric Theater, the Western Front Hotel, and the Spearhead Trails.

Virginia's Heritage Music Trail: The Crooked Road

Strengthening Southwest Virginia's Musical Ecosystem (#4482)

\$106,250.00 Grant

This award will support a three-part project consisting of an Economic Impact Assessment, a Facility Condition Analysis, and the creation of a part-time Venue Coordinator position. The assessment will evaluate visitor spending, job creation, and overall economic impact, while the facility analysis will identify structural and operational needs across the organization's ten major venues. The Venue Coordinator will strengthen partnerships and provide marketing support to enhance sustainability. Findings will inform improved marketing strategies and guide future investments to support the long-term success of the organization and its venues. This award will support the creation of a new venue coordinator position, the completion of an economic impact study and the completion of a facility condition analysis.

Other Economic Development

Bland County

Project Legacy - Final Design (#4493)

\$100,000.00 Grant

This award will support the completion of final design documents for a 27-acre workforce housing development on South Scenic Highway 52 in Bland County. Funds will be used for professional architectural and engineering services, including construction-ready building plans, site civil engineering, erosion and stormwater management plans, cost estimates, and a developer solicitation package. Completion of these materials will position the site for construction and enable the recruitment of a private developer to deliver a mixed-income rental community serving households earning 80–150% of Area Median Income. This award will fund architectural design documents, site civil engineering design documents, a stormwater management plan, a construction-ready development package, a developer solicitation RFP, and construction cost estimates.

Southern Virginia:

Agribusiness:

Campbell County

Farm and Small Business Marketing and Financial Literacy Series (#4474)

\$3,583 Grant

This award will support Campbell County in the creation of a regional pilot program designed to walk farmers through the business planning process. The program will address the need for practical business training to support long term viability of farm operations and will cover branding, marketing, financial analysis, records management and business planning. The proposed budget will cover the cost of contractual services and materials needed for the workshop. This program is designed as a pilot with specific mechanisms in place to ensure that improvements can be made for subsequent workshops. 25 producers from 6 counties are expected to benefit from this program. Producers will also receive practical outputs including professional photos, a functional records system, a business plan template and a draft logo/style guide.

Institute for Advanced Learning and Research
Expanding Southern VA Entrepreneurial and Business Support in Controlled Environment Agriculture (#4475)
\$350,000 Grant

This award will support the construction of an additional 4,320 square-feet in greenhouse space needed to support expanding agribusiness opportunities at the Virginia Tech/IALR Controlled Environment Agriculture Innovation Center. Since its start in 2020, the VT/IALR CEA Innovation Center has emerged as a pioneering model for collaborative innovation, business support, and training in the CEA sector. Using the IALR's unique platform as a state-affiliated entity, the Center bridges business, academic, economic development, and workforce development interests. Currently, the facility has reached its limit to support the various programs offered, and an expansion is needed to continue to facilitate growth of the sector. The greenhouse facility will be utilized to expand producer support in tomato and other vine farming, something the Center currently lacks, as well as increasing space for entrepreneurs support and training opportunities. The site is shovel ready and graded and the greenhouse kit will be identical to the first two, all making the construction process relatively straight forward. The new greenhouse will provide space for assisting startups/ entrepreneurs and to support the type of systems they are using or intend to use and be operated in conjunction with Virginia Tech.

Town of Kenbridge
Kenbridge Farmers Market Expansion Project (#4481)
\$8,333 Grant

This award will support amenities and improvements to expand and enhance the Town's existing Farmers Market. Grant funds will be used to install electrical hookups to provide lighting and to allow vendors to operate scales and small refrigeration units for fresh foods, as well as ceiling and circulation fans to improve comfort for customers during the summer months. The project includes extending the existing market structure to accommodate additional vendors and create a safe, weather-resistant area for loading and unloading products. Concrete flooring will be installed to improve the market's appearance and ensure stable, accessible footing for patrons, many of whom are older adults who have difficulty navigating gravel surfaces. These improvements will increase vendor participation, improve safety and accessibility, and strengthen the overall market experience for the community.

Land Savers United, dba Blue Ridge, Central Virginia, and Southern Virginia Land Conservancies
Incentivizing Land Conservation to Save Working Farms in the Southern Tobacco Region (#4471)
\$100,000 Grant

This award will support Land Savers United (operating as Blue Ridge, Central Virginia, and Southern Virginia Land Conservancies) in offering 10 one-time grants of up to \$10,000 each to rural landowners to help cover easement costs such as appraisals, attorney fees, and deed preparation. Grants are reimbursement-based and cover no more than 50% of costs, requiring landowners to

match the remainder. This funding goes directly to support the conservation of Virginia's #1 industry, agriculture, and is the only way to permanently ensure that Southern Virginias' farms and farmland are protected from development in perpetuity.

Business Development

Campbell County Training School Complex

CCTSC Grounds and Parking Lot Renovations Project (#4477)

\$400,000 Grant

This award will support CCTSC in undertaking a comprehensive revitalization project to continue converting the historic campus into a vibrant, multi-purpose asset for economic development. The initiative concentrates on upgrading both physical infrastructure and overall functionality. The primary objectives at this stage include constructing new parking facilities and enhancing campus grounds. These improvements are fundamental to supporting the safe and efficient operation of a licensed childcare center planned for the site. Furthermore, these upgrades will provide a strong foundation for future projects, such as the creation of small business incubator space on campus. Funding will go directly to support the resurfacing and reconstruction of the campus parking lot and internal access roadway including installation of drainage and stormwater infrastructure, LED lighting, ADA compliance walkways and ramps, directional signage, and landscaping. The request reflects a one-time investment to activate the adaptive reuse of this historic site.

Town of Chase City

Chase City Downtown White Space Redevelopment Planning & Assessment (#4470)

\$100,000 Grant

This award will support the redevelopment of two vacant and deteriorating properties located at 319 and 414 North Main Street in downtown Chase City. The first property is the former Chase City Municipal Building at 319 N. Main Street; it contains 2,132 sq. ft. on the first floor and 1,400 sq. ft. on the second floor. The second property is the former Hite's Department Store, this is a one-story building with 4,896 sq. ft. The funds will be allocated for professional services, which will include Planning and Engineering Reports (PAR/PER), a feasibility study, a Historic Tax Credit Application, and marketing materials. The goal is to restore both structures to a stabilized, development-ready condition and to develop viable reuse strategies, which may encompass mixed-use commercial and residential possibilities. Completing these planning activities aims to mitigate redevelopment risks, attract private investment, and support the long-term revitalization of Chase City's Main Street business district.

Lunenburg County

Southern Dominion Health System Community Pharmacy Project (#4472)

\$100,000 Grant

This award will support Lunenburg County, in partnership with Southern Dominion Health Systems (SDHS), to establish a new pharmacy in the Town of Victoria. Grant funds will be used to complete necessary property improvements to the pharmacy building and purchase essential pharmacy equipment that is necessary to outfit and operate the facility. This catalyst grant will be an investment that will improve access to prescription medications and pharmacy services for residents, particularly in Victoria and the surrounding community, while strengthening local healthcare infrastructure and supporting long-term community wellbeing.

Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc.

Reynolds Homestead Shared Kitchen Agribusiness Incubator (#4484)

\$500,000 Grant

This award will support The Reynolds Homestead in construction of a 3,559 square-foot shared kitchen agribusiness incubator to foster entrepreneurship and business development in the agribusiness sector of Patrick and surrounding counties. Shared kitchens serve as licensed commercial spaces that provide a pathway for food entrepreneurs ranging from chefs, caterers, food truck operators, and bakers, to value-added producers and packaged food and beverage makers to launch and grow their businesses.

Virginia Technical Institute

VTI Small Business Multifaceted Production Site (#4469)

\$400,000 Grant

This award will support the completion of Phase I renovations of approximately 30,000 square feet of unused space in the VTI Building to establish the VTI Small Business Manufacturing Incubator. Commission funds will be used to support architectural and engineering design, infrastructure upgrades (including electrical, HVAC, loading access, and fire suppression systems), construction of flexible and divisible industrial bays, code compliance improvements, and essential shared amenities needed to make the facility operational. The project will create industrial-ready space for early-stage and expanding small manufacturers, addressing a critical gap between co-working startup environments and large speculative industrial buildings. Once complete, the incubator will provide affordable, flexible space to support business formation, expansion, job creation, and long-term economic growth in the region.

Sites and Infrastructure

Mecklenburg County

Highway 58 West Sewer Extension Project (#4468)

\$1,503,755 Grant

This award will support Mecklenburg County and the Town of South Hill to make a 67-acre business-ready parcel purchased in 2025 viable. Municipal wastewater expansion is needed to service

this property at an estimated cost of \$11.8 million. The Town and County have completed engineering design and are in the process of securing easements. Construction bids will be accepted in Spring of 2026. Commission funds will go directly to extend the public wastewater service to the new industrial park along US 58 via one pump station and forcemain with gravity sewer extension, the installation of 5,494 +/- LF of 12” gravity sewer from the new pump station to the southwest corner of the new industrial site, and the installation of 2,472 +/- LF of 8” gravity sewer to the new 12” sewer across the southern side of the new industrial site.

Prince Edward County

Prince Edward Business Park Pad Site Development (#4486)

\$1,000,000 Grant

This award will support the completion of pad grading and site development for a 37 acre publicly owned industrial site within the Prince Edward County Business Park. The site is currently assessed as VBRSP Tier 4, and this project represents the critical next step to advance it toward Tier 5 “Project-Ready” status. The project will deliver a 25 acre graded pad with potential for a 200,000 square-foot building. This project matches the size most frequently requested by statewide industrial prospects, will strengthen regional competitiveness and address a well-documented shortage of large, market-ready industrial sites in Southern Virginia. The total engineering cost estimate of \$5,983,000 covers clearing, mass grading, excavation, stormwater improvements, erosion and sediment control, and site stabilization.

Sussex County

Sussex Green Enterprise Park: South - New Electrical Substation 90% Design (#4478)

\$330,000 Grant

Commission funds will be used to complete the 90% electrical design and engineering for a new 100 MW utility-scale substation (expandable to 200 MW) at a strategically selected site optimized for proximity to existing Dominion Energy transmission lines and low environmental risk. This critical engineering phase is an essential factor in securing a transformational economic development project (Project Conservatory) estimated to create 1,000 jobs and \$1 billion in capital investment. By finalizing the design of this substation alongside TRRC-funded water infrastructure, Sussex County will achieve a 'plug-and-play' status that significantly compresses construction timelines, ensuring the Tobacco Region is the chosen destination for this investment. Commission funds will support up to 50% of engineering design costs for the new electrical substation contingent upon Project Conservatory's commitment to locating to Sussex County.

Tourism

Town of Brookneal

Brookneal Riverfront Project (#4473)

\$275,000 Grant

This award will support the development of a Town-owned riverfront site along the Staunton River into an outdoor tourism destination that supports existing and future visitation. Commission funds will be used for site preparation and the installation of 12 RV sites with water, sewer and electrical hookups, along with complementary public park improvements and the supporting infrastructure needed to safely accommodate visitors. The project is designed to expand overnight capacity tied to river-based recreation and community events, to increase visitor length of stay, and to strengthen the local tourism economy while enhancing public access to the riverfront for both residents and visitors.

Town of Chatham (#4485)

Chatham, Virginia: Phase 1 Tourism Placemaking & Wayfinding Implementation

\$25,000 Grant

This award will support the implementation of Phase I of a coordinated wayfinding and destination visibility initiative that enhances the visitor experience and strengthens downtown vibrancy. The project builds on the Reimagine Chatham initiative and aligns with priorities identified in the 2024 Reimagine Chatham Growth and Renewal Strategic Plan, which, in part, emphasizes tourism visibility, wayfinding, and brand alignment. Commission funds will support the fabrication and installation of gateway, pedestrian, and directional signage that improves navigation, highlights destinations, and reinforces Chatham's community identity. Commission funds will specifically support the creation of a Wayfinding Plan, 5-6 wayfinding signs to be placed in high priority locations, and the development of marketing materials such as a tourism website and downtown branded banners.

West Piedmont Planning District Commission

Life in SOVA: Growth and Expansion Initiative (4483)

\$20,000 Grant

This award will support the development of a strategic marketing and development plan, website enhancements with a shared calendar tool, new content and creative assets, and targeted advertising to promote the region's tourism destinations by the West Piedmont Planning District Commission. Life in SOVA is a regional branding initiative that highlights the cities of Danville and Martinsville, the counties of Franklin, Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania, and the Town of Rocky Mount. At the core of this project is www.lifeinsova.com, a comprehensive digital hub that features the region's businesses, events, outdoor attractions, and community life.

Energy Ingenuity

Energy Catalyst – Planning Grants

Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority

Mine Water for Geothermal Applications in Appalachia Research Project (#4499)

\$50,000.00 Grant

This award will support Phase 1 of a feasibility study evaluating the use of underground mine-pool water as a sustainable cooling resource for data centers at the Southern Gap Industrial Center. Commission funds will be used to identify and characterize the mine pool, assess water quality and temperature stability, model thermal exchange capacity and reinjection strategies, evaluate environmental and regulatory considerations, and compare economic feasibility against conventional cooling systems. The study will determine how much data-center load the site can support without environmental harm and will generate defensible technical and economic data to attract private investment and to advance energy-based economic development. This project positions Southern Gap as a potential site for water-efficient, next-generation technology infrastructure while supporting job creation, private capital investment, and long-term economic diversification in Southwest Virginia. Commission funds will go directly to map mine-pool geometry and estimated water-volume datasets for Southern Gap, provide a water quality analysis report along with thermal capacity and hydrologic modeling outputs for a conceptual design for a pilot mine-pool geothermal cooling system. Then a phase 1 feasibility study including technical, environmental, regulatory, and economic analysis.

Commonwealth Center for Advanced Logistics Systems (CCALS)

AI-enabled Drone Payload for Real-Time Threat Detection (#4504)

\$50,000.00 Grant

This award will support the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Logistics Systems (CCALS) - Asymmetric Dynamic Industries, Inc. (ADI) project “Deploying AI-Driven UAS Situational Awareness Technology to Secure Energy Infrastructure in the Southwest portion of the TRRC Region” to expand the aperture of the TRRC region’s growing UAS and Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) activities and reputation by accelerating the optimization, deployment, and production of SAMAS-ai advanced payloads, operational technologies, and mission applications for the energy, energy-adjacent, and critical infrastructure sectors in the TRRC footprint, with primary emphasis on the Southwest portion of the region. Funds will directly support the development of an operational action plan for the technical development and deployment of SAMAS-ai drone payload technology. Commission funds will cover 50% of third party professional services performed by ADI.

Energy Execution – Implementation Grants

FOUR SEASONS YMCA

Tazewell Resilient Energy Communities (#4503)

\$375,220.00 Grant

This award will support half of a \$750,440 Tazewell Y Catalyst Project that launches the second stage of the \$5.1 million Tazewell Resilient Energy Communities (TREC) Initiative. The project will strengthen community resilience and workforce development in Tazewell County through three coordinated actions: (1) installation of a 10KW solar system and 26KW battery storage system at the Morris Knob communications tower—critical to emergency communications for the county’s 40,000 residents—providing up to 14 days of resiliency compared to the current two-day diesel backup; (2) installation of ten Level-2 EV charging stations across six public facilities including the Tazewell YMCA, Department of Social Services, Richlands Fire and Rescue, Richlands Recreation Park, Richlands Police Department, and Mountain Empire Community College (MECC) in Wise County to support resilient transportation; (3) support for engineering and construction of a Battery Energy Storage System at the Tazewell YMCA, which is part of a larger solar-plus-storage project enabling the YMCA to operate as a regional emergency shelter during outages. The project is expected to produce a 91% reduction in the YMCA’s annual energy usage and an 83.5% reduction in annual costs with the installation of the battery system. This award is split into 50% loan (\$177,110) and 50% grant (\$177,110), with the grant funds only to be released upon the acceptance of the loan.

Education

Southern Virginia

Brightpoint Community College Foundation

Brightpoint Community College Workforce Financial Aid FY26-27 (#4519)

\$49,075 Grant

Though Brightpoint Community College is outside of the footprint it serves students in Amelia, Dinwiddie, and Sussex Counties. They plan on serving 39 students in industrial electricity, precision machining, and welding for dual enrollment programs.

Central Virginia Community College Educational Foundation, Inc.

CVCC Workforce Financial Aid 2026-2027 (#4514)

\$212,000 Grant

CVCC’s service area includes Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell Counties. The school will support 135 students with scholarship funding.

Danville Community College
Danville Community College Workforce Financial Aid 2026-2027 (#4512)
\$77,000 Grant

DCC serves the City of Danville, Pittsylvania County, and western Halifax County. The school will support 77 students working towards a Workforce Credential-

Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation
P&HCC 2026-2027 Workforce Financial Aid (#4516)
\$224,000 Grant

P&HCC serves the City of Martinsville and Henry, Patrick, and southern Franklin Counties. A total of 143 students will be served; 72 of which are through Dual Enrollment.

Southern Virginia Higher Education Center
Southern Virginia Higher Education Center Workforce Financial Assistance (#4515)
\$30,000 Grant

SVHEC serves students in Halifax County. They are seeking tuition assistance for students in HVAC and Welding programs as well as in the IT Academy. We received 6 letters of support from businesses planning to hire between 473 and 731 jobs needing these credentials in the next 3 years. We also received letters of support from Halifax County Board of Supervisors, the Town of South Boston, and Virginia Careerworks.

Southside Virginia Community College Foundation
Tobacco Region Grant - 2026 (#4520)
\$239,000 Grant

SVCC serves students in Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Greensville, Halifax (eastern), Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward Counties, and the City of Emporia. Staff notes that the highest need for WFA support is dual-enrollment tuition for high school students. SVCC works with 10 public school systems and 3 private schools if there is interest (Brunswick Academy, Kenston Forest School and Fuqua School) for providing dual-enrollment opportunities at SVCC campus/satellite campus locations in Emporia, Keysville, South Boston, and South Hill.

Virginia Western Community College
Virginia Western Community College Priority 1 Workforce Credentials (#4521)
\$80,138 Grant

VWCC serves students in Franklin and Bedford Counties at its Roanoke location. The school will support 142 students working towards a Workforce Credential-

Southwest Virginia
Mountain Empire Community College
MECC Works (#4513)
\$173,000 Grant

The MECC service area includes Lee, Scott, Wise, and Dickenson (partial) Counties and the City of Norton. All required information was provided including a list of programs to be supported under this category. The majority of funding (\$163,000) will be used to provide tuition assistance for 155 students. The application also allocated \$10,000 to support testing fees for workforce credentials for 20 students.

New River Community College Educational Foundation
Floyd County - Access to Community College Education (ACCE) Program
(#4517)
\$22,000 Grant

All required information, including a list of programs to be supported under each category, was provided. All funds will be used to provide tuition assistance to recent graduates of Floyd County High School (classes of 2026 and 2027). Floyd County is the only TRRC region county included in NRCC's service region.

Southwest Virginia Community College
2026-2027 Tobacco WFA Scholarship Grant (#4522)
\$151,000 Grant

The SWCC service area includes Buchanan, Dickenson (partial), Russell, and Tazewell Counties. All required information was provided including a list of programs to be supported under each category. Tuition assistance will be provided to 77 students enrolled in the first three categories.

Virginia Highlands Community College Educational Foundation
Virginia Highlands Community College Workforce Financial Aid FY27
(#4523)
\$188,000 Grant

The VHCC service area includes the City of Bristol, Washington County, and part of Smyth County. The applicant provided all required information, including a list of programs to be supported under each category. Tuition assistance will be provided to 180 students.

Wytheville Community College
2026-2027 Wytheville Community College Forging Futures Scholarship
Program (#4518)
\$188,000 Grant

The WCC service area includes Bland, Carroll, Grayson, Smyth (partial), and Wythe Counties and the City of Galax. All required information was provided including a list of programs to be supported under each category. The application allocates \$164,000 for tuition assistance serving 109 students and \$24,000 for testing-fee assistance for 80 students in STEM-H and Advanced Manufacturing programs.